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Demonstration Notice:

A major political protest is planned for Saturday, December 30, beginning at 12:00 noon in front of VMRO-DPMNE headquarters in central Skopje (near the Best Western Hotel on Makedonija Street). A significant police presence, large crowds and severe traffic congestion due to street closures are expected.

Spontaneous demonstrations take place in Macedonia from time to time in response to world events or local developments. We wish to remind U.S. citizens that even demonstrations intended to be peaceful can turn confrontational and escalate into violence. You should avoid areas of demonstrations, and exercise caution if in the vicinity of any large gatherings, protests, or demonstrations.

We strongly recommend that U.S. citizens traveling to or residing in Macedonia enroll in the Department of State's Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP) at https://step.state.gov/step. STEP enrollment gives you the latest security updates, and makes it easier for the U.S. embassy or nearest U.S. consulate to contact you in an emergency. If you don't have Internet access, enroll directly with the nearest U.S. embassy or consulate.

Regularly monitor the State Department's website at http://travel.state.gov, where you can find current Travel Warnings, Travel Alerts, and the Worldwide Caution. Read the Country Specific Information for Macedonia at http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/cis/cis_4965.html. For additional information, refer to "A Safe Trip Abroad" on the State Department's website.

Contact the U.S. embassy or consulate for up-to-date information on travel restrictions. You can also call 1-888-407-4747 toll-free from within the United States and Canada, or 1-202-501-4444 from other countries. These numbers are available from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Eastern Time, Monday through Friday (except U.S. federal holidays). Follow us on Twitter at https://mobile.twitter.com/travelgov and Facebook at https://www.facebook.com/travelgov, and download our free Smart Traveler iPhone App at https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/smart-traveler/id442693988?mt=8 to have travel information at your fingertips.

<u>The U.S. Embassy in Skopje, Macedonia</u> is located at Samoilova 21, 1000 Skopje and is open Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. tel: (02) 310-2000. If you are a U.S. citizen

in need of urgent assistance, the emergency number for the U.S. Embassy is (02) 310-2000 and the $\underline{\text{e-mail}}$ is consularskopje@state.gov.